

Mubarak, Qadhafi discuss Gulf

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak Monday held talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on the confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.-led allies, an official said. Presidential spokesman Mohammad Abdal Majeed said the two leaders "focused during their meeting on the escalation and the sad situation in Iraq and studied the possible developments in Iraq and the Gulf." He said they also discussed "a number of international, regional and Arab issues." Col. Qadhafi, whose country is under air sanctions, drove to Egypt Sunday. He was expected to go to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria the following day, but he headed straight for Cairo to meet Mr. Mubarak. Mr. Mubarak held an official welcome ceremony for his guest at the presidential Kubba Palace and then the two leaders started talks behind closed doors. Egypt was a main Arab participant in the U.S.-led multinational force that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war. Libya was against the coalition but did not support Iraq's invasion of the emirate. In the renewed confrontation between Iraq and the allies, both countries have expressed concern over the use of force against another Arab country. But while Egypt blamed Iraq for provoking the strike by breaching the ceasefire resolution, Libya accused the allies of unwanted force.

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Allies unleash fresh attacks on Iraq**21 killed in American-British-French air raids near 'no-fly' zones; U.S. confirms cruise hit Al Rashid****Baghdad vows to defend its land and airspace**

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED WARPLANES raided military targets in northern and southern Iraq Monday, while Baghdad residents expressed outrage over a U.S. cruise missile attack the night before.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that 21 people were killed and one was wounded Monday. France, Britain or the United States reported no casualties among their forces in the confrontation over Baghdad's compliance with U.N. resolutions and allied-imposed "no-fly" zones.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz issued a statement Monday night blaming the U.N. special commission, in charge of weapons inspections in Iraq, as well as the United States for the bombardments. He said the attacks "raised serious questions" about future Iraqi compliance with the commission because of Washington's influence on the international agency.

Algeria to try 48 on death charges

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian military court this week will try 48 Muslim extremists, including some 27 members of the armed forces, on charges punishable by death. Le Matin newspaper said Monday. One trial, of 18 men, charged with "terrorism" attacks in Laghouat region, 330 kilometres south of Algiers, will start Wednesday. The second, of 30 people — all servicemen except for three or four civilians — is due to start two days later. Le Matin said they faced charges including undermining state security, conspiracy and running an armed band, punishable by death.

Rafsanjani urges Lebanese to unite

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday urged all groups in Lebanon to unite and rebuild their war-ravaged country. He told Nabil Berri, speaker of Lebanon's parliament and leader of the Shiite Amal Movement, in Tehran that Iran was ready to help Lebanon's reconstruction, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported. "It is about time that all groups in Lebanon, while exercising vigilance, closed ranks and made reconstruction efforts so as to stop outsiders and enemies from penetrating or exploiting their country," it quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

300 feared buried in Turkish avalanche

ANKARA (AP) — An avalanche buried 50 houses in northeastern Turkey Monday and 300 people were feared trapped under tonnes of snow, Anatolia news agency said. The disaster occurred in Ozengeli, 35 kilometres from the provincial centre of Bayburt, the agency said. The area is 800 kilometres east of Ankara. The news agency quoted a village as saying 50 of the 85 houses were buried.

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Iraqi women cry at the funeral of a woman killed in Sunday's American missile attack on Baghdad

King voices deep regret over flare-up, blames Arab inability**Lower House denounces attacks on Iraq**By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday expressed "deep anger" at what he described as "unacceptable and sorrowful developments" in the Gulf between the Western-led alliance and Iraq.

These are "moments of sorrow and anger. (These feelings) are not shown on the face but (are) in the heart of all Arabs," the King told reporters at Amman military airport upon return home after a three-day visit to Oman.

Directly blaming Arab countries for failing to resolve the Gulf crisis when it first erupted in August 1990, King Hussein said the recent escalation of hostilities between Iraq and the Western coalition might have its roots in the Arabs' initial failure to settle the conflict on their own, "giving

others the chance to interfere with their affairs."

Reports conflict

AMMAN (Petra) — A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted a cable from the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad as saying that there were no casualties among Jordanian nationals living in the Iraqi capital in Sunday's missile attack on Baghdad.

The report said that all the members of the Jordanian delegation to an Islamic conference underway in the Iraqi capital were safe.

But a Petra report from the Iraqi capital said that among two women killed at Al Rashid Hotel in Baghdad was a Jordanian identified as Rafah Fahmi Abu Gharib. There was no immediate explanation to the conflicting reports.

"More than anybody else, I tried to deal with the problems and crises that faced us since 1990 within the Arab family, but we were, unfortunately, unable to do that," the King recalled.

"I believe the Arab World shares a great deal of the blame for what happened (by denying) ourselves the chance to deal with the dangerous crisis that faced us and solve it peacefully," he said.

Reaffirming Jordan's stand that chances for finding a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis were not fully exhausted, the King said: "No-one could be happy over the use of force in the area."

But "it is up for the Iraqi people to decide what to do," he said.

The King said he hoped the Arabs would deal with the

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Israelis kill 3 Palestinians, including children, in Gaza**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM**

(Agencies) — The Israeli army killed three Palestinians in a clash with stone-throwers in the occupied Gaza Strip, international relief workers said Monday.

The deaths, which stemmed from an incident on Sunday, brought to seven the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in five days in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. An eighth was shot dead by a civilian after stabbing and wounded four people at the Tel Aviv bus station Friday.

The army said troops opened fire on stone-throwers in Gaza's Shati refugee camp Sunday, killing two Palestinian teenagers. A third Palestinian died of wounds Monday morning, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza said.

Marwan Dababesh, 13, was killed instantly in the clash. Hamdi Abu Hasira, 15, was wounded and died later Sunday. Jihad Muheisen, 22, died Monday at

Gaza's Shifa hospital. Eight were wounded in the clash, UNRWA said.

The army said it was checking the report of the third death.

Figures compiled by Reuters show a sharp rise in the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in the past two months, especially children.

Four Palestinian youngsters under the age of 15 were killed since Thursday in the Gaza Strip.

In the five-year Palestinian revolt against military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israelis have killed 995 Palestinians, according to Reuters. An AP count put the figure at 1,018.

On Sunday, a cabinet minister, Yossi Sarid, urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to establish better controls to prevent killings of children by troops, the Jerusalem Post daily said.

"Too many kids are getting killed," the Post quoted Mr. Sarid as telling the weekly cabinet session. The minister demanded

that the government be briefed about every army investigation of the death of a minor.

Two members of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party, ministers Uzi Baran and Chaim Ramon, asked Mr. Rabin to bar soldiers from using live gunfire in dispersing Palestinian protests in refugee camps, the Davar daily said. Mr. Rabin, who doubles as defence minister, refused, saying such a step would endanger the soldiers' lives.

Asked about the large number of children killed in Gaza in recent weeks, a military official said Monday: "I don't think this is part of any pattern. Unfortunately, we recently faced a wave of violence, especially in the Gaza Strip which has also claimed Israeli casualties."

Sunday's violence came as many Palestinians in the occupied territories observed a daylong general strike called to mark a

(Continued on page 2)

Prince Hassan meets German leaders**Prince Hassan meets German leaders**

Combined agency dispatches

THE LATEST ALLIED attacks against Iraq were met with renewed bluster from Baghdad and questions in other Arab states about why American resolve to enforce U.N. resolutions did not extend to Israel and Bosnia.

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The Arab League, in the strongest Arab reaction so far to military strikes on Iraq, urged the U.S.-led allies to show restraint in the attacks, which Iraq says have killed at least 43 people since last Wednesday.

The league also called on Baghdad to quickly withdraw its police units from Kuwait.

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Arabs question 'double standard' in application of U.N. resolutions

Combined agency dispatches

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In the Arab World, however, the fear of Iraq that built the U.S.-Arab Gulf war alliance was offset by the feeling that President George Bush was overstepping his U.N. mandate in renewed raids on Iraq.

Labib Kamhawi, a prominent Jordanian political scientist, said Arabs were shifting their pro-Western stance, but failing short of lining up behind Iraq.

"They are becoming neither anti-Iraq nor pro-coalition, which is a major development," Mr. Kamhawi said, adding the latest attacks were helping Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "rally his people behind him."

Newspapers in Gulf countries said the West was ignoring U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding Israel take back 400 expelled Palestinians and urging protection for Bosnian Muslims.

"We deplore this two-faced policy. We have to say this kind

(Continued on page 2)

Baathists get licenceBy Mariam M. Shahid
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party Monday became the seventh party to receive legal recognition in the Kingdom under the new political parties law which took effect on Sept. 1, 1992.

The legalisation of the Baath

party cemented a warming relationship between the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Jordan's traditional left-wing and pan-Arab parties.

Relations had been cool since the Ministry of Interior refused to grant legal status to three left-wing parties in December. One of the three parties was the Baath Party.

The three appealed the government's decision at the Higher Court of Justice but dropped the action when a dialogue was opened between leftist leaders and senior members of the government in late December.

Prince Hassan told JTV that although he sprained his ankle while in London, he will carry out his full programme in Germany. He was seen on television walking with the help of crutches.

Prince Hassan commended the hospitality in which he was received in his visit to Germany, the first since the unification of West and East Germany.

Prince Hassan also met with ambassadors of Arab and Muslim states in Bonn. At the meeting,

concerned were leftist in ideology and had been politically active for up to 30 years.

Asked if he had to make any concessions to the government, the secretary general of the party, Ahmad Najdawi, said: "We changed the name from the Baath Arab Socialist Party in Jordan to the Jordanian Baath Socialist Party."

The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPI) became the first of the leftist parties to gain legal recognition at the beginning of the week. The DPPI said that after holding several meetings with senior members of the Cabinet the party leadership agreed to delete a reference to the building of a socialist society as one of its primary aims.

Only the Jordanian Communist Party, one of the oldest political groups in the country, appears to have gained legal recognition without compromising its socialist ideals.

"We have vowed to abide by the Constitution and the National Charter and that does not contradict with the social justice and economic wellbeing of society," said party head Youacob Zayad after his party received legal status Sunday.

All three of the parties con-

Zarqa deputies present demands

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Parliament members representing Zarqa Governorate met Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at his office Monday and presented him with a set of demands from Zarqa residents.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that deputies Salameh Ghweiri, Mohammad Al Haj and Bassam Haddadin as well as Mousa Al Saad, mayor of Ruseifa in the governorate, spoke in particular about the chronic problem of garbage dumping at Ruseifa.

The prime minister expressed understanding of the problem and promised immediate measures to address the situation.

Zarqa residents have incessantly complained about an ever-present bad smell and poisonous atmosphere caused by the garbage dump in their area. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has announced arrangements for shifting the dumping to another site.

The prime minister said that he

(Continued on page 2)

ions against Israel if it refuses to implement Security Council Resolution 799 by bringing home the expellees.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned Sunday the Middle East saw a double standard in the treatment of Israel and Iraq. He failed in talks with Mr. Rabin to persuade him to obey the U.N. demand.

"Israel, which has ignored numerous U.N. resolutions over the years, has expressed the hope Washington will veto any attempt to impose sanctions."

Mr. Gherekhan, the United Nations envoy, was meeting officials of the Red Cross in Geneva Monday to discuss the plight of the Palestinian expellees.

Mr. Gherekhan and officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross were to discuss the issue, a spokesman said.

Another envoy failed in December to win Israeli compliance with a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding the return of over 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel on Dec. 17.

The expellees remain stranded in an icy land between Israeli and Lebanese lines on the edge of the strip of Lebanese territory occupied by Israel. Neither country will accept responsibility for them.

Mr. Clinton told foreign diplomats that his foreign policy would be built on three pillars." First,

(Continued on page 2)

Dr. Gherekhan has hinted at sanc-

Middle East News

Clinton backs Bush action against Iraq as appropriate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President-elect Bill Clinton said Sunday the U.S. missile strike against Iraq was "appropriate and forceful." His press secretary said the incoming administration was "prepared to continue taking appropriate action until Iraq complies."

Mr. Clinton and his advisers took a tough line towards Iraq as the incoming president arrived in Washington for his inauguration on Wednesday.

Moments after Mr. Clinton's bus pulled up to the Lincoln Memorial for an inaugural festivity, his deputy national security adviser, Sandy Berger, boarded the vehicle to brief the incoming president.

There was no sign of retreat from the military confrontations between the Bush administration and Iraq. "We're prepared to continue taking appropriate action until Iraq complies," said United Nations resolutions, said Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

Mr. Clinton's communications chief, George Stephanopoulos, said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "doesn't realize that there is no daylight between President Bush and President Clinton on this."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "is determined to be tough" with the Iraqi leader.

"We've been fully briefed. We've been in regular contact," Mr. Clinton said of the increase in tensions that put a shadow over his otherwise festive bus journey through the Virginia countryside to the nation's capital.

"Saddam Hussein's continuing provocation has been met by appropriate and forceful response. I fully support President Bush's action," Mr. Clinton said. "Saddam Hussein should be very clear in understanding that the current and the next administration are in complete agreement on the necessity of his fully complying with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Of the shooting down of an Iraqi fighter in the northern Iraq "no-fly" zone, Ms. Myers said: "He supports the action."

Clinton adviser Nancy Soderberg was with him on the bus tour and was keeping in constant touch by phone with Mr. Clinton's national security advisers Anthony Lake and Samuel Berger in Washington.

Saddam threatens retaliation

BAGHDAD (AP) — Here are remarks made by President Saddam Hussein in a radio broadcast Sunday after another American attack on Iraq.

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate O great people, delight of the nation's eye and its medals in faith, pride, and jihad. O sons of our glorious Arab Nation, the failures have once again returned to Baghdad. They returned to the beloved, faithful, steadfast, patient city — symbol of every city of honour and zeal. They returned to the city of God is great, carrying with them the wrath of the utter defeat which has characterised all their previous attempts since the beginning two years ago, up to the day of return on the 13th of this month. They returned to affirm the grudge of their forefathers since Saladin. They returned so that God will expose and disgrace them, humiliate their actions, and support the group of believers. Attack them, oh you, the delight of our eyes, the sash of our pride and crown of all the faithful. Strike. Oh brave ones."

"Strike, because the battle has come, the day when the sun that will never set will rise, so that you, the Arabs, and all the faithful people will be at the level desired for them by Almighty God. And thus you may assume the great position — the position

Mr. Lake, in turn, was keeping in touch with National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and other members of the Bush team. Ms. Myers said.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said Mr. Clinton had "not been asked for his approval" of Bush administration actions. "But we have tried to keep him informed every step of the way. President-elect Clinton has the benefit of all the details."

Mr. Clinton has been fully supportive of the Bush administration's handling of the latest Iraqi crisis, including last week's strike on Iraqi anti-aircraft installations.

And, he told reporters last week in Little Rock, that he would not rule out using force against Iraq, nor would he consider normalising relations with Iraq while President Saddam remains as ruler.

Meanwhile, in an interview on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said: "I think Saddam Hussein's brain is wired differently than the people I deal with on a regular basis. It doesn't make any sense, from my perspective, what he's doing now. But obviously he's got some rationale."

On Mr. Clinton's comments last week in a New York Times interview that he was not obsessed with President Saddam, Mr. Cheney said:

"There is Saddam Hussein out there and Iraq and the 'Persian' Gulf and it is a problem, but it's one of a long list of problems that Governor Clinton is going to have to deal with as soon as he becomes president on the 20th."

In an NBC interview, Mr. Clinton agreed that President Saddam might be testing him because of his lack of military experience.

But he said Iraq and other potential enemies would be very foolish to misjudge his intentions to act as commander-in-chief because he did not serve in the military.

Major: Allies unanimous

British Prime Minister John Major said there was complete agreement among the allies over Sunday's attack.

Speaking briefly outside Downing Street, the prime minister said the action was taken "after a great deal of consideration, after a great deal of con-

dition, after boarding a plane for Tokyo.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Tribes settle vendetta in heart of Sanaa

SANA (AP) — Rival clans of the Hashed tribe of northern Yemen Sunday settled a vendetta right in the heart of the capital Sanaa in an incident involved two killings and the injury of six people. Security officials said that fire was exchanged between the two sides after Sheikh Ali Ahmad Al Soutouf of the Khayr region inhabited by the Hashed tribe was killed in his car by followers of Sheikh Ali Hamed Gulaidan, of Beni Qais region, from the same tribe. Shooting then broke out, resulting in one more dead and the injury of two pedestrians, including a woman, said the officials. Four of the policemen who rushed to contain the firing were also injured, they said. Members of both sides were arrested and confessed to the police that they had been a vendetta between the two clans and it was being settled. Members of Yemen's tribes often come down from their mountain strongholds to the capital with their arms and daggers. The country already is wracked by assassination attempts and bomb blasts, mostly due to rivalry between political parties. Attempts by the authorities to curb personal arms have failed. Meanwhile a criminal court began considering the case of a group of 20 people indicted by the state prosecutor for damage to public and private property during the four days of food riots in the country last month. More than 600 people were arrested in those riots protesting the spiraling cost of living. It was not known how many more have or will be indicted.

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Asked by a reporter if he had recommended caution to President Bush, he replied: "No. There's complete agreement between the allies about the nature and timing of the response this evening."

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Jordan's high birthrate poses problems for the future (file photo)

Birth rate threatens Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Population growth at its current rate in Jordan "may finally lead to the destruction of the Jordanian civilisation and even to its disappearance," according to Walter Rudel, representative of the German Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (GFNF), who delivered the opening speech at Monday's seminar on "Population Growth and the Environment."

"If we compared the number of inhabitants in Jordan, which amount to four million at present, to the available resources and agricultural lands, we can deduce the bulk of the problem facing the country," Mr. Rudel said.

Mr. Rudel warned of the serious consequences challenging the world if population growth continues at the same rate: "There will be more poverty, more famines, more natural catastrophes, more social disturbances and more wars," he said. "What is likely to happen in the near future is a total or partial destruction of the world as a result of an atomic war between the poor, over-populated countries in the south and the relatively advanced peoples in the north," Mr. Rudel said.

According to statistics of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) study, the number of inhabitants in the world will reach 14 billion by the year 2050.

The study, conducted by Lina

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF



Prince Abdullah visits General Headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein visited Monday the General Headquarters of the Jordanian Armed Forces where he had a meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fath Abu Taleb. Prince Abdullah also visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its Director Major-General Fadel Al Fuhaid. Prince Abdullah was briefed on the role of the PSD in serving citizens and maintaining national security.

Health committee to visit hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Committee at the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Saad Haddadin. The committee plans to visit various hospitals and health centres in the Kingdom, Mr. Haddadin said. He said the committee will inform Health Minister Aref Al Batinah of its plans.

Jordan, Morocco to follow-up on trade prospects

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Moroccan follow-up committee entrusted with overcoming obstacles to trade exchanges between the two countries will meet in Amman Tuesday. The committee will discuss means of implementing a trade and tourism agreement signed by Jordan and Morocco last year. Members of the Moroccan side in the committee will hold talks with officials from the public and private sectors on ways of promoting trade exchange between the two countries. The committee meetings will be co-chaired by Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad and Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism Rashid Ben Hilal.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the

American Centre

FILMS

- ★ German film entitled "Der Schimmelreiter" at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.
- ★ German film entitled "Berlin Chamisplatz" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

JBA gears up for elections

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the date for elections of the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) approaches, more lawyers have nominated themselves as candidates for president or board member.

Jawad Younes, Fahmi Abu Hweij, Omar Damra, Asaad Kamal Al Saadi, Isa Ismail Mahadin, Dr. Kamal Naser and Khalaf Masadeh have announced their candidacy for president.

According to association sources, there are no women candidates today, but unconfirmed reports say Zahrah Sharabati and Nivin Shafiq Nabil might declare their candidacy shortly.

Altogether 2,150 lawyers are eligible to vote in the election which is due in March.

Present Bar Association president Mr. Walid Abdul Hadi will not be running again; he has already served as president for two successive terms, association sources said.

They said that a total of 16 lawyers from Jordan and the occupied West Bank have said they will run for the two-year term of board member.

According to association sources, heated rivalry is expected between the Democratic Bloc, the Islamists and the Professional Bloc.

More than 1000 lawyers are demanding drastic changes in the association structure and orientation, with a view to giving more attention to the professional rather than the political trends the sources said.

At least 257 West Bank lawyers are involved in the coming election and have already elected Mursi Hajjar from Jerusalem to serve on the 10 member board.

JD 2.8m to finance electrification projects

IRBID (J.T.) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC) has allocated JD 2.8 million to finance its expansion projects and develop existing power networks during 1993.

Company Director General, Abdul Raouf Al Sheikh, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the plans entail supplying electric power to new industrial, agricultural, educational and other developmental sites such as water and irrigation projects and the villages which are included in the new plans for electrification this year.

Mr. Sheikh said by the end of last year the company had succeeded in supplying electricity to 99 per cent of the areas under its concession in the Irbid government.

The area under IDEC concession includes the Irbid and Mafraq governorates with their towns and settlements such as Al Kharijeh, Al Masarah, Haditha, Zeitoun and Rahman — all areas which have been supplied with electricity so far.

Mr. Sheikh said plans are under way to supply power to villages and settlements in the Ajloun, Jerash and Shueib areas, as well as the King Talal Dam.

Mr. Sheikh said the company currently owns 1,700 kilometres of cable network which is being fed with 33 kilovolts of power.

He said the company has recruited skilled staff and gathered sufficient experience to handle most of the damages that could affect the network during the present winter season.

He said the company offers services to 125,000 subscribers and its dues are mostly collected on time, enabling the company to pursue its plans on schedule.

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Chairman of the Agriculture Committee Mohammad Al Awneeh said the committee's meeting with the owners of poultry farms and fodder processing plants in Jordan stressed the need to swiftly address their problems, underlining the need to reduce the prices of animal feed and veterinary medicines.

They also urged the government to increase the number of slaughter houses and refrigerated stores to absorb the market surplus of poultry production.

The poultry farmers also called for the creation of a union or federation for poultry farm own-

ers, and for examining and controlling the quality of veterinary vaccinations and medicines as well as fodder before supplying poultry farmers with them.

In a meeting with the Agriculture Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, owners of poultry farms and fodder processing plants in Jordan stressed the need to swiftly address their problems, underlining the need to reduce the prices of animal feed and veterinary medicines.

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Jordanians speak out against attack on Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians Monday reacted with vehemence to the latest allied attacks against Iraq and denounced what they saw as Arab connivance with the United States in not only trying to eliminate all possibilities of Iraq re-emerging as a strong military power in the region but also in helping President George Bush to strike at Iraq as a moment of a personal feud against President Saddam Hussein.

Many Jordanians who do not necessarily agree with the policies of the Saddam government in Baghdad also appeared to have been influenced into adopting a strong anti-Western position in the wake of the massive missile attack on Baghdad Sunday night and the air raids in the north and south that followed Monday.

The main consideration among middle-of-the-road Jordanians was what one of them described as "the irrefutable evidence of the Western double-standards in dealing with the Middle East."

"Where is the determination and anxiety of the U.S. and its cronies to enforce the U.N. resolutions on the Palestinian problem?" asked Mahmoud Taha, a jeweller. "Let us forget for a moment (Security Council resolutions) 242 and 338 and look at 799. What is being done about it?"

Resolution 799 condemns Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon and demands that the Jewish state allow their immediate return to the occupied territories. Israel has ruled out compliance with the resolution.

"To throw massive military power at Iraq in the name of the U.N. while keeping a blind eye towards Israel's defiance of U.N. decisions is nothing but double standards and hypocrisy," he said.

"I am not a fan of Saddam," said Mohammad Murzi, a ready-made garments merchant in downtown Amman. "Saddam made a lot of mistakes and made us all look like stupid fools with the way he handled the Gulf crisis. I don't know what he (Saddam) wants this time. Anyway he should not have provoked the Americans," he said.

"But it is not acceptable that

the Iraqis make sure that the Kuwaiti regime is not spared either."

"Let Saddam go down if that is indeed the price to pay," he said. "Then he can claim to be the hero of the Arab World since he would have changed the picture of the Arab World by a new invasion of Kuwait."

Qasem Bashir, a taxi driver, said he was heartened by Iraq's sole missile attack against Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, after Monday's air raids. Some reports said the missile was intercepted and destroyed before hitting the ground. Other reports said there was no such attack at all.

"It is a message to everyone," said Mr. Bashir. "Saddam is saying that he still has the fire-power to hit the Saudis as well as others, including Israel, and could unleash it if he wants it."

Several Jordanians argued that the Iraqi leadership should have averted any crisis with the U.S. or the U.N.

"The blow that was delivered to Iraq in the Gulf war was devastating and killed all our hopes that the Iraqis could have posed a serious threat to Israel that could balance the regional military balance," said Jamal Al Turk, a grocer.

"Saddam should have kept a low profile and tried to salvage whatever he could of his military power without risking a new confrontation," he said.

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Lessons not only learnt but also to be remembered

IN EXPRESSING deep anger over the "sorrowful developments" in the Gulf between Iraq and the Western allies, His Majesty King Hussein was echoing the feelings of millions of Arabs who can accept no justification for the continued U.S. and allied attacks on Iraq.

These are moments of sorrow and anger, the King said.

We direct a great deal of this anger at the United States and its coalition partners which seem to have ignored all calls of reason to save this conflict-prone area yet another bloody, definitely unnecessary, episode.

Renewed military confrontation between Iraq and the Western allies will serve the interest of none, except probably, the personal ambitions and grudges of outgoing U.S. President George Bush, who has crossed the boundaries of common sense, reason and international legality.

The Arabs are mistaken if they believe the terrible repercussions of a new war in the Gulf will not reverberate beyond Iraq to shake the stability of the whole region. Their silence is deafening. Their lack of action is yet another proof of the shaky foundation upon which the whole Arab system is predicated.

Hence is the soundness of His Majesty's call on the Arabs to address this unfortunate situation as one nation and end the fragmentation and destruction of the Arab World. The Arabs have suffered enough for their failure to resolve the crisis when it first erupted in August 1990. They will reap a more bitter harvest if they do not bury the differences of the past and act collectively to contain the tension and peacefully settle the crisis.

The double standards of the Western-dominated United Nations in addressing the conflicts of the area sets out in sharp relief that the U.S. and its allies are launching their missiles on Baghdad to promote their own interests, not international legitimacy.

United Nations resolutions and international law carry little weight with the United States if they do not promote its interests. Images of more than 400 Palestinians suffering in a makeshift camp in southern Lebanon remove the human mask behind which Washington, London and Paris try to hide their attacks on Iraq. Thousands of deaths in Bosnia-Herzegovina only further expose the hypocritical nature of Mr. Bush's new world order.

Driven by personal vendette and unchecked by a world that has shed away from effectively protesting his action, Mr. Bush seems determined to continue his war against Iraq until his last minute in power.

The world is fortunate therefore that a changing of the guard will bring a new American president to the White House. We can only hope that President-elect Bill Clinton will have a totally new approach to the conflict in the Gulf — an approach guided by sound reasoning, unmarrred by personal grudges and aimed at defusing a crisis that has the potential of driving a whole region into the abyss of total chaos.

In the meantime, the Arabs should try and take their fate into their own hands, put their house in order and find a peaceful solution to a conflict in which they could be the only losers.

The events of 1992 August are not too far to remember; the lessons are too important to be ignored.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE DOWNING of one Iraqi plane in the north and of another one in the south can by no means change the situation and will not compensate Mr. Bush for his downfall this week, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The destruction of residential areas in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul is no victory or something that can honour any nation or leader, said the daily in its comments on the resumption of U.S. air raids on Iraqi cities. The Arabs do hope that President-elect Bill Clinton is now aware of the fact that destruction of other countries can by no means be beneficial to his country or contribute towards enhancing peace and justice in the world, said the daily. Indeed, Mr. Bush's acts of aggression in his last days in office can by no means be regarded as a heroic feat worthy of respect, the paper continued. It said that Mr. Bush's lies and those of his British and French allies, concerning the situation in Iraq, can by no means be beneficial to the Western world because arrogance and crimes can never destroy the will of nations. The paper said that by launching raids on Iraq in his last days, Mr. Bush is trying to find solace for his ignominious ouster from the White House. Mr. Bush and his country consider the raids as military victories, but they are in fact, political defeats for the Western world at large, the paper said. These air raids, it concluded, can never brighten the image of the ugly president and his allies in the world.

Comparing Mr. Bush to the Roman Emperor Nero, Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily said that the outgoing president seems to be determined not to leave the White House without displaying all his black hatred against humanity through committing barbaric crimes against the Iraqi people. The paper said that Mr. Bush seems to be afflicted with the Nazi hysteria instigating him to launch aggression, killing innocent people and destroying residential areas. It said that the bloodbath Mr. Bush is trying to create in Iraq is bound to deepen the hatred of the Arab masses for the Americans and their allies who are intent on carrying out destruction and killing of people. The hysterical behaviour of Mr. Bush and his allies, and the air raids on Iraqi cities, constitute a crime against humanity in general and the Arab Nation in particular. The paper said that the U.S. rockets which continue to fall on Baghdad and other towns are burning what the Western world calls the international legitimacy and destroying the so-called new world order which Mr. Bush had been bragging about. The paper said that Mr. Bush is acting like Nero did when he burnt Rome and like Hitler who left behind him the worst pictures of barbarism printed deep in the world's history.

Commentators around world echo U.S. hopes, fears about Clinton

By Anita Snow
The Associated Press

Excerpts from commentators around the world on the eve of President-elect Clinton's inauguration:

NEW YORK — On the eve of President-elect Clinton's inauguration, political commentators around the globe are echoing U.S. hopes and fears about the man who will lead the world's last remaining superpower.

In places as diverse as Columbia, Russia and Saudi Arabia, they fear Mr. Clinton's relative inexperience in the foreign arena and the challenges that will face him from abroad — famine and strife in Somalia; war in former Yugoslavia; Iraq's defiance of the West; wobbly democracies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Their hopes spring from the demise of a global East-West conflict that dictated U.S. foreign policy for a generation; the end of the reign of the Republican Party that came to be associated with that conflict; and Mr. Clinton's youthfulness, which reminds many of them of President John F. Kennedy.

L'Express, a leading French newsweekly, spoke of the excitement, the "fevered mood" swirling around Washington with the approach of Wednesday's inauguration, when Mr. Clinton, 46, will be sworn in as the nation's first Democratic president in 12 years. French commentators have gushed over Mr. Clinton since he defeated incumbent Republican President Bush in the November election. At that time, Le Point, a leading news weekly, described Mr. Clinton as having "the vitality of a young buffalo, the well-articulated rhetoric of a Georgetown and Oxford overachiever" and having "a conciliatory and centrist" tone."

Parallels between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kennedy were drawn in an opinion piece Wednesday in The Independent of London. It portrays Mr. Clinton as a tough, clever and sophisticated Washington insider with a regular guy persona — a combination it maintains America needs in a leader.

Bombings isolate Kuwait from Arabs

By Robert Fisk

Behind the palace walls, among the banks, you can see the launchers of the Patriot missiles. The Americans are protecting their most favoured emir, and his immensely wealthy people.

There is no reason for fear," Prince Saud Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Information Minister, proclaimed on Jan. 14. And yet there was that tell-tale printed sheet pushed under my hotel door after breakfast. "Dear Guest," it announced, "the evacuation alarm will be tested today, Jan. 14, at 12 noon. Please do not be alarmed it is only a necessary exercise." That last, unhappy conjunction of two words told the whole story.

Not that anyone here still believes that Saddam Hussein would reinvoke. This time last year Kuwaiti television was broadcasting programmes on civil defence. These past two days, the Kuwaitis have been surprised with costume dramas and retransmissions of CNN news broadcasts from Baghdad. Yesterday's Arab Times gave almost as much space to a partial transcript of the alleged Prince Charles-Camilla Parker Bowles tape as it did to the text of Marin Fitzwater's White House announcement of the bombing of Iraq. But you can't shake off that little edge of uncertainty.

Take Major Saleh Adoub, in the old police station near the Al Salam supermarket. He wanted to help arrange our forthcoming trip to the Iraqi border, to make sure the Kuwaiti checkpoints did not prevent us from reaching the frontier at Abdali. "But don't stay off the main road, don't go into the desert," he warned with a big, concerned smile. "Saddam is crazy and the Iraqis are still around up there. If you stay over the border, you may end up in Baghdad for a few years."

There was nothing wrong with the advice. It was the memory that played tricks. Two years and six weeks ago, I had passed this very police station on the day of Kuwait's liberation, when men like Major Saleh were anticipating the imminent overthrow of Saddam. Yet there we all were yesterday evening, watching the same American news commentators on the same satellite television shows, making the very same predictions about Saddam Hussein that they had made two years ago. Then there had been venom for Saddam, expressed by American and Kuwaiti alike. But yesterday the Kuwaiti hatred had softened a little.

"I don't mind the bombing if it was necessary," the Kuwaiti woman confided as she sent off my fax, to London on Kuwait's over-burdened telephone system. "But couldn't the Americans have given one more warning?"

Was it really necessary to do all that bombing with all those planes again? Why was this? Why did it have to happen? It was a worthwhile question, one that even Prince Saud Al Sabah found himself unable to address satisfactorily.

In the atrium of the Information Ministry, he had repeated America's contention that the raids were "limited." Credence could no longer be placed in Iraq's promises; Saddam must obey U.N. Security Council resolutions. "I believe there is worldwide acceptance of what the coalition forces have done."

But if it was world-wide, it was certainly not Arab-wide. The Saudi and Kuwaiti may have expressed their satisfaction at this bit of extra Saddam-biting but the Egyptians did not support it — President Hosni Mubarak regretted the use of force — and the Arab League complained about it along with Jordan, which objected to the raids. Syria remained glowering silent. So did

Prince Saud refused even to discuss the matter.

Yet, on Jan. 14, a middle-aged Kuwaiti, dressed in gold-fringed robes, could be seen watching a CNN newscast of the Iraqi air raids in the lobby of the Kuwaiti International Hotel, quietly cursing. There on the television were the usual western claims of "punishing" Saddam, of "spanking" him — the old language of colonialism — and even the same grim references to "collateral damage" that should have died with the Gulf war. But of course Kuwaitis are waking up to the realization that the Gulf war has not ended.

So who was the middle-aged man cursing? Up on the border, the Iraqis do not inspire as much fear as the "citizens of Kuwait might credit them with. They have defecated and urinated on the border posts in advance of tonight's deadline to leave the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone.

And by today the West must take action to save the Muslims of Bosnia, otherwise the delegates to the Islamic Conference will take steps to send their own military assistance to the Muslims of the Balkans. How we in the West had forgotten that even more pregnant deadline, set down in Jeddah last year.

The European Community was sending a six-day ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, but the horrors of the Balkans long ago exhausted Arab patience. The massacres, tortures, rapes of Bosnia have far outdone the iniquities of Iraqi occupation in Kuwait, leaving the little emirate isolated even from further sympathy. It is now Saddam's foreign minister who talks of "vicious aggression."

However evil its leader, can Arabs remain unsympathetic to Iraq much longer? Safe behind their Patriots, the Kuwaitis will be asking themselves the same question, counting the cost of America's friendship and protection as they realize the price that must be paid for these expensive commodities.

Indeed, one got the impression that the Kuwaitis were finally having to face up to a kind of isolation. Understanding as never before how much they must now rely upon American protection they are beginning to realize they have crossed a divide. All the talk of Arab brotherhood and unity went out the window on

Aug. 2, 1990, but now the gradual loss of this familiar neighbourly rhetoric — bestowed upon Saddam Hussein on Sept. 23, 1989 by none other than the emir of Kuwait himself — has left a gulf, filled instead by U.S. promises.

The Kuwaitis are beginning to understand Saddam: that his creation is directed at his fellow Arabs rather than the West.

They have noticed how mildly their government has chosen to condemn Israel's refusal to adhere to the U.N. Security Council resolution on returning the 413 Palestinian deportees to their home. Asked about it, Prince Saud refused even to discuss the matter.

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So who was the middle-aged man cursing? Up on the border,

the Iraqis do not inspire as much fear as the "citizens of Kuwait might credit them with. They have defecated and urinated on the border posts in advance of tonight's deadline to leave the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone.

And by today the West must take action to save the Muslims of Bosnia, otherwise the delegates to the Islamic Conference will take steps to send their own military assistance to the Muslims of the Balkans. How we in the West had forgotten that even more pregnant deadline, set down in Jeddah last year.

The European Community was sending a six-day ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, but the horrors of the Balkans long ago exhausted Arab patience. The massacres, tortures, rapes of Bosnia have far outdone the iniquities of Iraqi occupation in Kuwait, leaving the little emirate isolated even from further sympathy. It is now Saddam's foreign minister who talks of "vicious aggression."

However evil its leader, can Arabs remain unsympathetic to Iraq much longer? Safe behind their Patriots, the Kuwaitis will be asking themselves the same question, counting the cost of America's friendship and protection as they realize the price that must be paid for these expensive commodities.

Indeed, one got the impression that the Kuwaitis were finally having to face up to a kind of isolation. Understanding as never before how much they must now rely upon American protection they are beginning to realize they have crossed a divide. All the talk of Arab brotherhood and unity went out the window on

Aug. 2, 1990, but now the gradual loss of this familiar neighbourly rhetoric — bestowed upon Saddam Hussein on Sept. 23, 1989 by none other than the emir of Kuwait himself — has left a gulf, filled instead by U.S. promises.

The Kuwaitis are beginning to understand Saddam: that his creation is directed at his fellow Arabs rather than the West.

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The

Allies unleash fresh attacks on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf war. U.S. officials said the significance of the attack was in its proximity to Baghdad and the seat of power.

At least two houses were destroyed in the area, most window glass was shattered and apparent missile fragments rested in backyards.

"This is Bush's fault," said Molisen Ali Muhammad as he pointed to bloodbath left by his three small daughters injured by flying glass.

"What child deserves this? I should leave this place as a museum for killings," said the businessman, whose wife and daughters were hospitalised.

Defence Department officials said that a Baghdad hotel in which two civilians were killed was hit by a U.S. Navy cruise missile.

A senior military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Defence Department had concluded that a Tomahawk cruise missile fired in Sunday's attack had been knocked off its intended course and exploded at the Al-Rashid Hotel.

The missile was knocked off course by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery, the official said. It was fired from a Navy ship as part of Sunday's 40-missile attack.

"We regret the loss of life," the Pentagon official said.

Iraq said its forces had shot down eight of the U.S. cruise missiles.

"President Saddam Hussein has ordered to honour the fighters who downed missiles of the aggressors on Jan. 17," Baghdad Radio said quoting a military spokesman.

The radio said the president had awarded each military unit "half a million dinars for each missile shot." Half a million dinars is \$1.6 million at the official rate or \$12,500 on the black market.

At the Al Rashid Hotel a furious worker shouted, "Bush has blood on his hands."

A funeral cortège for the two hotel victims, including a military band, passed by the Al Rashid. The coffins were draped in Iraqi flags. One of the victims was a hotel receptionist.

The 14-storey hotel is home to many visiting journalists, several of whom were injured by the blast. It also was the site for the sixth world Popular Islamic Conference, a group of academics and religious officials from Muslim nations. The Iraqi News Agency said the conference was called to condemn allied aggression against Iraq.

The first of Monday's daytime attacks was carried out by 75 U.S., British and French aircraft against Iraqi missile sites in the south, where the allies had barred Iraqi flights since August.

An Iraqi military spokesman said allied aircraft struck nine military positions in Dhi Qar province and the city of Nassariya in southern Iraq and south of Mosul in the north, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency said two raids south of Mosul were driven off by Iraqi defences, but made no claims of allied aircraft being hit.

Baaghdad said three civilians were killed and 30 wounded in Sunday's missile attack.

Last Wednesday's allied air

raids on anti-aircraft batteries in southern Iraq killed 17 soldiers and two civilians and wounded 15 people, it said.

A Pentagon official said the second attack Monday was flown against anti-aircraft batteries in the north after their radars targeted coalition planes, indicating they were ready to fire.

Mr. Hamdoun said Iraq was gratified by support from Arab states, but would not elaborate. "We get all kinds of support from the Arab World, either back home or at the United Nations," he said.

The allies say they are trying to force Iraq to honour the U.N. resolutions that set the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

In announcing Monday's attacks, White House spokesman Paul Clarke said:

"This action has been undertaken in response to Iraqi moves to reconstitute its surface-to-air missile systems in the region south of the 32nd Parallel and to Iraq's openly proclaimed policy of challenging the no-fly zones."

Further provocations by Iraq "will be dealt with forcefully and without warning," he said.

The Iraqi newspaper Babel called Sunday night's attack a crime and lashed out at Mr. Bush.

"George Bush wanted to end his black record and vindicate his defeat with a new bloodbath against the Iraqi people," the paper said.

Iraq also vowed Monday to fight for the right to control its land, sea and airspace.

State radio quoted Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying: "Iraq categorically rejects violation of its sovereignty whether in land, sea or air."

"Any infringement of any of these (air, sea or skies) means submission to the principle of division," said Mr. Ramadan.

He urged the U.N. Security Council to uphold Iraqi sovereignty rather than undermine it.

The sovereignty of the country is an indivisible part and the duty of the Security Council is to preserve countries' sovereignty and not to issue resolutions to divide them according to the wishes of the United States, Britain and France."

Iraq's U.N. envoy said that Baghdad expected more attacks against it because it was U.S. government policy to use military force.

He repeated Baghdad's vow to retaliate against any future bombing by U.S.-led forces, saying "we have the right to retaliate and do whatever we could in self-defence."

Nizar Hamdoun, speaking to Reuter television, said: "It has been a policy of the American administration to use military force so if (the latest raids) is just a continuation of that."

"We always have expected and we still are expecting more attacks," he said in answer to questions.

Mr. Hamdoun, however, said he did not know what the next step would be in possibly authorising flights by U.N. weapons inspectors and guaranteeing their safety, one reason for the allied attacks.

Asked if the ball was now in Iraq's court, he said: "The ball is

in the area but hoped "this will be the case" in the future.

"I say this despite the bitterness and sadness of the moment; and I say this as an old friend of the United States," the King said.

Describing relations with Oman as excellent, King Hussein said his trip to Oman "was a good step on the road towards ideal relations" with the Sultanate.

The King, who arrived at Amman military airport at 4:30 p.m., was received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and Cabinet members and other officials.

The Lower House Monday condemned the U.S. attack on Iraq and urged Arab states to seek a united front in the face of what it referred to as "the common danger."

In a statement issued Monday, the House denounced "the continued U.S. aggression against Iraq and the Iraqi people," and rejected all arguments to justify the attacks.

The statement said the Jordanian people deplored the Western "encroachment on the sovereignty of Iraq" in violation of international law.

Condemning what it saw as double standards in implementing United Nations resolutions, the House voiced solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif called on Iraq and the United Nations to solve the current conflict through peaceful dialogue in order to avoid military escalation.

"We are extremely disturbed by what is happening in the occupied territories," the King told reporters.

King Hussein said he had had no contacts with the United States over the latest tension in

lost somewhere in between."

The U.N. special commission, in charge of destroying Iraq's dangerous weapons, before Monday's allied attack had notified Iraq of plans to fly inspectors into the country Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

But U.N. sources said they did not expect an answer quickly in light of the raids.

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A senior U.S. defence official said the raid by 75 U.S., British and French warplanes in southern Iraq was "to finish the job" against anti-aircraft missile batteries and radar defence sites missed in allied raids last week.

Financial markets shrugged off the latest raids on Iraq, with oil prices showing only a modest rally midway through Monday's European dealings.

The dollar fell, gold inched higher and stock prices were slightly lower as traders found no motivation in the allied attacks on Iraq.

Unlike the Gulf war two years ago, which threw world markets into wild gyrations amid fears that prolonged fighting could disrupt crucial Mideast oil supplies and wreck industrialised economies, this latest combat is being greeted with a collective yawn by the financial community.

Britain said significant damage had been inflicted on Iraq's remaining air defences in the southern "no-fly" zone during the latest raids and warned Baghdad further action would be taken if necessary.

If the Iraqis still refuse to comply with United Nations resolutions, the government will not shirk from considering the need for further action in consultation with coalition partners, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said.

Mr. Rifkind told parliament

early indications were that Monday's allied air attacks had inflicted "further significant damage... on Iraq's residual air defences in the southern 'no-fly' zone," although damage assessments were continuing.

Four British Tornado GR1 attack aircraft and two Victor tankers were among the planes that took part in the operation.

Seventy-five allied warplanes, including six French Mirage 2000 RDI fighters flying air cover, took part, the French defence ministry announced.

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The Iraqi factory destroyed Sunday contained metalworking machinery and had been visited four times by United Nations inspectors, U.N. official Rolf Ekeus was quoted as saying.

The complex was probably not

an essential part of Iraq's weapons strategy, Mr. Ekeus, Swedish executive chairman of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, was quoted by the evening Aftonbladet newspaper as saying.

"All equipment that can only be used for military purposes had been destroyed. Equipment which can be used for both military

and civilian purposes was still there, but we had it under strict control," Mr. Ekeus said.

Aftonbladet did not say where the interview took place, and the Swedish foreign ministry said Mr. Ekeus was not in Sweden.

Germany gave its full support to the strikes against Iraq, saying Baghdad had brought them on itself.

SULTANATE OF OMAN VACANCY FOR RETAIL MANAGER

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Excellent communication skills and a pleasing personality with an ability to effectively interact with a multinational sales team are essential pre-requisites for this job.

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 30, 1993, and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration.
(Registration begins on Saturday 23.1.1993)

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Financial Jordan Times
Markets In co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Date: 15/1/93	15/1/93	18/1/93
Sterling Pound ¹	1.5312	1.5358
Deutsche Mark	1.6355	1.6350
Swiss Franc	1.4970	1.4958
French Franc	5.5290	5.5235**
Japanese Yen	126.05	125.82
European Currency Unit	1.2010	1.2032**

1SD Per SGD

European Opened at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.13	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound ¹	6.81	6.87	6.56	6.56
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.31	7.93	7.37
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.50	5.43	5.18
French Franc	11.37	11.12	10.12	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.65	3.50	3.46
European Currency Unit	10.13	10.06	9.68	8.94

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals					Date: 18/1/93
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	327.85	6.40	Silver	3.65	.080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 18/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0571	1.0624
Deutsche Mark	0.4207	0.4228
Swiss Franc	0.4599	0.4622
French Franc	0.1245	0.1251
Japanese Yen ²	0.5469	0.5496
Dutch Guilder	0.3743	0.3762
Swedish Krona	0.0946	0.0951
Italian Lira ³	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.02044	0.02054

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira ⁴	0.036265	0.036485
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.7350	2.7900
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.31465	0.31865
Cypriot Pound	1.4195	1.4375

Per 100

Index	16/1/93	Close	17/1/93 ⁵	Close
All-Share	163.62	164.04		
Banking Sector	131.79	132.35		
Insurance Sector	195.44	200.90		
Industry Sector	253.98	253.84		
Services Sector	249.67	251.18		

December 31, 1992 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2806/11	Canadian dollar	
1.6250/60	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	
1.8240/70	Swiss francs		
1.4847/57	Belgian francs		
33.4044	French francs		
5.4975/5025	Italian lire		
1482/1487	Japanese yen		
125.64/69	Swedish kronas		
7.2500/600	Norwegian kronas		
6.8450/550	Danish kronas		
One sterling	6.2450/550		
1.5455/65			
One ounce of gold	\$328.05/328.45		

Cinema	Tel: 677420
CONCORD	
Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston	
BODYGUARD	
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30	
Free Car Parking	

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	Tel: 675571
Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:	
Pandemonium (Ta'a wa Qaimah)	
Daily at 8:30 p.m.	
Tickets office open all day	

Cinema	Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA	
Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	
Th. + Fr. special show for children at 11:00	

AHLAN THEATRE	Tel: 625155
AHLAN THEATRE	
"Welcome New World Order"	
Play will reappear in a new presentation on Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday	
Happy New Year	

CBJ memoranda take Jordan bankers by surprise

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bankers in Amman were still perplexed Monday by the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ's) decision to hike the legal reserve it imposes on banks and financial companies. The bankers interviewed were unanimous that the decision was untimely and detrimental to the economic pick-up.

The CBJ Sunday issued two memorandums to all commercial banks and to all investment banks and financial companies informing them that, as of March 1, 1993, the legal reserve required by the central bank has been raised to 15 per cent and nine per cent respectively.

Legal reserves are funds that commercial banks, investment banks and financial companies are required to park with the central bank as deposits earning no interest. The current legal

reserve requirements are 13 per cent of the total deposits at commercial banks and seven per cent of all deposits at investment banks and financial companies.

The CBJ memorandums specified that 60 per cent of the obligatory legal reserve would be classified as a two-day notice deposit which cannot be released except after the central bank approval of the reasons for the requested withdrawal (s). The remaining 40 per cent would be treated as current deposit.

Finance Minister Basel Jarashan firmly repeated: "The finance minister and the ministry of finance had nothing to do with the new measure. It was solely a decision by the central bank."

The CBJ governor refused to talk to the press about the reasons behind the abrupt raise in legal reserves.

CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marto, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, gave various explanations but never did answer the main question: Why was the legal reserve requirement hiked without any obvious reason?

Most general managers of commercial and investment banks found all kinds of excuses for not talking to the Jordan Times, while those who did accept to talk expressed total surprise at the CBJ move.

"I see no reason for the raise. It seems to me and indirect tax because all the additional cash to be deposited at the central bank will only beef up the funds of the treasury," said the general manager of a bank, noting that the excess liquidity was not that high to warrant hiking the reserve.

Another general manager said that liquidity in the banking sector could be high at two or three known banks only, but others,

especially the late comers to the market, are at a total disadvantage.

"The central bank keeps urging us to lower interest on credits, but what it did Sunday forces us to do just the opposite: Keep interest on loans high," he said.

He went on saying that the financial market was not fairly balanced as each bank or financial company was a "special case" for one reason or another and, as such, CBJ unintentionally harms many entities by its latest memorandums.

"Sometimes I feel the CBJ is operating a double-standard philosophy," the bank chief pointed out.

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Fighting intensifies between Bosnia's Croat, Muslim allies

ZAGREB (R) — Fighting intensified between Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia Monday, splintering their civil war alliance against Serbs and undermining prospects of an international peace settlement.

Croat military and British U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesmen in the region reported fierce artillery and heavy machinegun duels as well as some hand-to-hand fighting in the ethnically split town of Gornji Vakuf and nearby communities.

"This situation is totally fraught. It's hard to see any light at the end of the tunnel," a UNPROFOR spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the area where former Muslim and Croat allies have begun fighting over shares of the territorial pie envisaged at the Geneva peace conference.

Croat-Muslim tension, long simmering in west and central Bosnia, flared into fighting last week after Geneva peace mediators designated much of the region for autonomous Croat rule despite its large Muslim minority. In some pockets Muslims are even in the majority.

Political power in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which seceded from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia last March, would be devolved to 10 cantons loosely based on ethnic makeup under the peace plan.

But Muslims, Bosnia's largest community, have rebuffed the cantonal blueprint because they say it would saddle them with the least territory, bowing to Serb or Croat occupation of more than 80 per cent of the republic.

Croat-Muslim battles worsened Monday after Bosnia's Muslim army commander, Sefer Halilovic, prohibited Muslim units in three sectors earmarked by peace mediators for Croat administration from submitting to Croat command.

"Fighting is going on in Gornji Vakuf just because Mr. Halilovic has stuck by what he ordered. There is no front line," Veso Veger, spokesman for Bosnia's Croatian Defence Council (HVO) forces, said from HVO headquarters in Mostar. —

Angolan troops destroy rebel HQ

LISBON (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Monday that government forces had destroyed its headquarters in the central city of Huambo, but that it had shot down a government jet and knocked out 12 tanks.

UNITA said in a statement faxed to Reuters in Lisbon that more than 500 people had died during the last week of fighting in Huambo, which it said was mostly in UNITA's hands.

Angolan state radio meanwhile reported clashes around the northwestern oil town of Soyo, the supply base of a mainly onshore oilfield that accounts for a third of Angola's 500,000 barrel per day production.

UNITA forces encircling Soyo were receiving support from Zairean troops ferried across the nearby border by boat, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) quoted state radio as saying.

Diplomats in Lisbon who follow events in Angola closely, said they expected UNITA to try to capture Soyo within the next three days.

UNITA said in its latest statement that it wanted an end to the renewed civil war, which broke out two weeks ago, ripping apart a 1991 peace agreement that ended 16 years of conflict.

Angola lapsed back into the full-scale fighting after UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rejected its defeat by the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) in elections last September.

But it said it was determined to teach the government a military lesson before going back to the negotiating table.

"UNITA does not refuse to negotiate but it will never agree to negotiate with a knife at its throat," the statement said.

"Let us wait for developments in all the theatres of combat for the (ruling) MPLA and its allies to understand that what happened in Luanda between Oct. 30 and Nov. 1 is not only unacceptable but will have its reply," UNITA said.

This effectively threatened revenge for a government crackdown in the Angolan capital two months ago which eliminated UNITA's presence there.

Thousands were killed in this bloody offensive which followed UNITA's rejection of its defeat by the MPLA in the U.N.-supervised elections and the movement's occupation of a large swathe of the interior.

The flashpoint of Croat-Muslim hostilities in Gornji Vakuf, a drab town of 5,000 people sitting on a strategic supply route between the Croat-held southwest Herzegovina region, the Adriatic Sea, and Bosnia's disputed centre.

The British UNPROFOR spokesman said clashes had "erupted in a fairly big way" to the south and southwest of Gornji Vakuf, suggesting the conflict was escalating.

He said one town caught in the spread of fighting was Prozor, where HVO forces were reported by relief sources to have expelled Muslim inhabitants last year in an act of Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaigns.

Meanwhile, a United Nations convoy delivered emergency food and medical supplies to a Bosnian Muslim town blockaded by Serbs for nine months and left Monday to return to Sarajevo, a U.N. spokesman said.

Peter Kessler, of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said he did not yet have any word on the condition of the inhabitants of Zepa, previously reported to be dying from starvation and cold.

Communications with the convoy were very difficult in a remote, mountainous area, near the Serbian-Bosnian border, largely sealed off by Serb irregulars and rocked by fighting with Bosnian Muslim army forces.

The U.N. aid convoy finally reached Zepa Sunday after three futile attempts. Road blocks, including felled trees and minefields, forced it to try four different routes and spend two nights on freezing mountain trails before breaking through.

Mr. Kessler reported hold-ups of several other UNHCR convoys.

Relief trucks leaving Serb-surrounded Sarajevo for Vitez in central Bosnia to pick up supplies were stalled outside the capital for 11 hours at a Serb checkpoint Sunday.

Mr. Kessler said the convoy's way was blocked by 1,000 Serb women and children protesting at what they called an inadequate

distribution of U.N. supplies to Serb civilians stricken by Bosnia-Herzegovina's civil war.

Another UNHCR convoy headed for Sarajevo from an Adriatic coast supply depot turned back at a Serb roadblock outside the city after gunmen demanded 30 per cent of its cargo in exchange for passage. Mr. Kessler said.

The convoy spent the night in the Croat stronghold of Kiseljak 30 kilometres to the northwest and would try to get into the capital again Monday.

Mr. Kessler said attempted extraction of relief convoys "has been happening more and often in the past few weeks."

He also said five local relief trucks on UNHCR contracts in central Bosnia had not been heard from since Wednesday. "They may be delayed by Croat-Muslim fighting in the region and have just decided to lie low until it abates."

Most parts of the Bosnian capital enjoyed a quiet night and Radio Sarajevo said Monday that the only fighting overnight was in the western frontline suburb of Dobrinja, which was hit by tank, mortar and cannon fire.

It added that 12 people were wounded in the besieged city Sunday.

Yugoslav and Bosnian government forces dueled with artillery in a sharp escalation of Bosnia's civil war, while Bosnian troops fought to cut off rebel Serbs from their Yugoslav allies.

Sunday's cross-border shelling marked the first time Yugoslavia has acknowledged intervening in the war since withdrawing its troops seven months ago from this former Yugoslav republic.

Serb rebels said the offensive by Bosnia's Muslim-led government near the Yugoslav border was the biggest in the region since the war began. The casualty toll was unknown, but it was clearly a bloody battle.

At least 46 Serb fighters and civilians were killed around the village of Skelani in southeastern Bosnia, the official Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported.

At a cemetery in Bratunac, a

town 3 kilometres from the front, the cries of Serb women mourning their dead were drowned out by explosions from the fighting, said AP reporter Dusan Stojanovic, who visited the area.

"Damn this war," Darinka Petrovic cried out as she knelt before a cross bearing the name of her son Dragan, 25.

The Serb, whose body has not been recovered, was killed in the Bosnian offensive, which is apparently aimed at cutting a corridor linking Serb-held areas with Serbia, the dominant state in what is left of Yugoslavia.

The cemetery was dotted with at least 100 fresh graves. Some of victims were as young 12.

In line with the Orthodox Christian Serbs' belief that there is life after death, many grave crosses were covered with shirts to keep the dead warm. Food, drinks and lighted cigarettes were also put on the graves.

Bosnian Serb villages near Bratunac, which lies along the Drina River border between Bosnia and Serbia, were gutted and gashed, Mr. Stojanovic reported. Bare beams were all that remained of roofs, and walls were punctured from bullets and cannon blasts. Pigs searched for food.

A source at Yugoslav army headquarters in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia and Serbia, said Yugoslav artillery fired into Bosnia a day after Muslim forces fired into Yugoslavia.

Bosnian Serb and Yugoslav officials said that the cross-border shelling by Bosnian forces continued Sunday and that villages and a power plant in Perucac, about 40 kilometres southwest of Bratunac, were hit.

One person was killed Sunday by Bosnian fire into Serbia, Belgrade radio said. No casualties were reported in Saturday's shelling.

The Yugoslav military "responded fiercely" to the attacks, Tanjug reported, without giving details. The source at Yugoslav army headquarters said that the artillery barrage and that no Yugoslav ground attack had been launched.

Democrats celebrated the first inauguration of one of their own in 15 years. Mr. Clinton embraced it all, throwing his head back in laughter, hugging old friends, giving the thumbs-up signal.

Renewed bombing in Iraq disrupted none of it.

Mr. Clinton's hours until his investiture at noon (1700 GMT) Wednesday brim with purposeful symbolism, touching all bases — a word with the diplomatic corps, a tribute to the slain martyr of black Americans, a meal with some of society's victims.

In the first such session, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore arranged to meet Monday with 180 foreign ambassadors at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

In the 1960s, Mr. Clinton was a student on that Gothic campus while working part time in the office of his state Senator, J. William Fulbright.

Mr. Clinton planned to observe

U.N. seeks release of troops held by Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Militant Khmer Rouge have failed to respond to U.N. demands for the immediate release of four U.N. peacekeepers detained by the guerrilla faction since Sunday, the U.N. spokesman said.

"So far we have been unable to get a response from the NADK (Khmer Rouge) why these men are being detained and when they will be freed," Eric Falt, spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said Monday.

The four, a British lieutenant commander and Royal Marines sergeant, a Chilean Marine and a Cambodian interpreter, were taken prisoner shortly after midday Sunday in strife-torn central Kompong Thom province.

Mr. Falt said it was the sixth time in two months that Khmer Rouge guerrillas had detained peacekeepers against their will. Over the past two months, the Khmer Rouge has detained scores of UNTAC personnel and in one incident last month threatened to execute prisoners.

MANILA wants U.S. to defend sea lanes

MANILA (AP) — A year after the Philippines ordered U.S. forces out of the country, the foreign secretary said Monday the Clinton administration should continue an American military presence in the Far East.

"We see the need for an effective U.S. military presence in the region because we think the continued U.S. presence will translate into sustained economic

growth within the region," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters.

"The U.S. should remain committed to defending the sea lanes in the Pacific and in the South East Asian lake," he added.

U.S. ability to provide such defence was impaired by the September 1991 decision by the Philippine Senate to reject a new, 10-year lease for the Subic Bay

Naval Base, which had been a key part of the American security umbrella.

U.S. and Philippine officials

then began talks on a multiyear withdrawal. But the talks broke

down and the government of

former President Corazon Aquino ordered U.S. troops to leave by the end of 1992.

The last troops departed Subic

in November.

Siamese march against racism

STRASBOURG (R) — Several thousand French and German demon

strators have marched together in the French border city of Strasbourg to call for a Europe free of racism, anti-Semitism and Xenophobia.

About 3,000 Germans and 1,500 French people met on Europe Bridge over the River Rhine which marks the border, then gathered later for a rally on

the French side.

Members of the Strasbourg-based European Parliament and a visiting delegation of U.S. con

gressmen joined the demon

stration, called by anti-racism

organisations, Unions and Immigrant Workers' Groups in the two

countries.

Foreigners in Germany have

been the targets of firebombings and assaults by racist extremists

meanwhile, a homemade

bomb exploded outside a building

housing foreigners and Germans

Sunday but it was unclear

whether the attack was part of a

wave of violence against fore

igners.

Beaming in delight, Mr. Clinton applauded a message from five U.S. astronauts in the heavens above. He flashed a "thumb's up" signal.

At that hallowed place, Mr. Clinton appealed to his countrymen to set differences aside.

"In this world of tomorrow, we must go forward together or not at all," he said, and recalled Lincoln's unheeded

inaugural appeal: "We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies."

With that, Mr. Clinton walked

the length of memorial bridge to

a park on the banks of the Potow

ma.

First he, then daughter Chelsea

pulled a thick red rope, ringing a

liberty bell replica. They heard

thousands of bells ring in re

sponse.

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